

AT PEACE.

Green trees, and quiet fields, and sunset light
With holy silence, save for rippling leaves
And birds that twitter of the coming night.
Calling their mates, beneath my cottage eaves—
These faint hints granted for a little space
To be companions of my pilgrimage.
Filling my grateful heart with Nature's grace.

II.

Not unremembered here the garish stage.
Nor the wild city's uproar, nor the race
For gain and power in which we all engage;
But here remembered dimly, in the distance,
As something that has ceased to fret—
Here, where time lapses like a gentle stream,
Hid in the woodland's heart, and I forget
To note its music and its silver gleam.

III.

But never, never let me cease to know,
O whispering woods and daisy-sprinkled grass,
The beauty and the peace that you bestow,
When the wild fever of ambition passes,
And the worn spirit, in its gloom and grief,
Sinks on your bosom and there finds relief.

—William Winter, in The Galaxy for April.

A PROVISION FOR LIFE.

A pine-tree blossoms its favor'd fate, because
Room to grow is given it by the wind and rain,
Of once the clapped sandstone's gravel'd flaves.

In found, where early chance had cast its lot
On a bare rock, with leave to thrive or not,
As later chance might choose, in that chill spot.

"Ah, what good fortune!" sigh'd the grateful
Tree, "That in this fissure the wind planted me!"
But for the inch of earth what should I be?"

Foot! Thy good fortune was not the bestowing
Of that scant handful of earth, nor the giving
It was—and is—thy faculty of growing.

SONG OF THE TREES.

"We teard to the high, and we teard to the deep,
Twixt the two worlds over us and under,
With our boughs we peep at the heaven and creep
With our roots thro' the earth, in wonder.

"Heavens come not down, and earth lets not
us go;
By them both in our bound to us given,
And so we live, endlessly wavering on,
Twixt the bliss of the earth and heaven."

HOME AND FARM NOTES.

Here is the newest local sentiment: "If
you wish for heart's ease, don't look to mar-
riage."

Mr. Davis, of Portland, has paid \$10,000 to
Ira Batchelder for a black Spanish cock—
considered the best game bird in the coun-
try. Look out for that rooster to have
gapes. He'll soon follow the duchess of
Genova.

The agricultural societies of Pennsylvania
send committees of intelligent members to
visit the state agricultural college at unex-
pected times, thus having the advantage of
accurate and fair reports, and of keeping
professors and students in a state of anxious
readiness.

The Kansas wool-growing association have
arranged for a sheep-shearing festival this
spring, at which shall be shown to the pub-
lic the quality, length and weight of the
wool growth of one sheep in one year."

At a largely attended meeting of the
peninsular fruit growers' association, held
at Dover, Del., on the 17th inst., the gen-
eral tenor of all the reports favored the expec-
tation of a very full yield of peaches so far
as can be at present foreseen.

CORN CAKES FOR BREAKFAST.—One pint
of buttermilk, or rich sour milk, one tea-
spoonful of soda, or just sufficient to neu-
tralize the acid of the milk, a little salt, heaping
spoonful of sugar, one or two eggs tossed up
light and put in the last thing, corn meal to
make the batter of the consistency of sponge
cake. Bake immediately.

BOTTING PORK WITH BEEF.—A WOMAN
writes to Moore's Rural Life this direction: With
a long, narrow, sharp knife, make an incision
in the beef lengthwise of the fiber; press into
it closely a strip of fat pork, which should
not be more than one inch square. At inter-
vals of an inch or two, make other incisions;
all with pork, and, of course, as the beef
is more palatable, particularly to those
persons who like a "streak of fat and
a streak of lean," and which is quite showy
when cut in slices to be eaten cold.

WATERING CATTLE.—A writer in the Ohio
Farmer very justly insists on some care as
to the manner of watering cows, especially.
Take two cows in equal health and flesh,
and which give about the same quantities of
milk, and while one is watered regularly
early every morning out of doors, give the
other in the stable, water at the same hour
from which the chill has been taken, and
the effect will be marked in the product of
milk in favor of the warm water. Cattle
which remain out of doors day and night
are not so susceptible to the chill of cold
water, and, of course, are not affected so un-
favorably by it.

BIRD'S NEST PUDDING.—Peel and core very
pleasant apples; if they are large, cut them
in halves; cook slowly until about half
done. Fill the hollows with sugar. Make
a thin crust of two or three eggs, leaving
out one or two of the whites, and add a few
fine crumbs of bread or crackers or a little
boiled rice; flavor and pour over the apples.
Bake slowly till the custard puffs up. Then
whip up the whites, add two spoonfuls of
white sugar and spread over the top of the
pudding. Set in the oven a minute, with
the door open. This is a cheap and whole-
some dish and is very palatable to most per-
sons. A few trials will make it popular. It
is good made in the morning, for tea in hot
weather.

CHEAP AND GOOD MULCH.—D. W. Her-
stine informs the Practical Farmer of his
success in seeding down oats as a mulch for
his strawberries. It seems to answer ex-
actly, and is perhaps less trouble and ex-
pense than any other at command. He
sowed the oats broadcast all over his straw-
berry patch about the 15th of September.
Their growth is so rapid that they have al-
ready commenced covering the first week in
October. When it has made a larger growth it is
of course checked by severe frosts and after-
ward killed by the winter, when it falls
down over the plants, making a complete
and sufficient covering till spring, when the
young plants readily push through it.

TO RAISE MUSHROOMS.—Some people are
passionately fond of mushrooms. Thomas
Prosser, in the Cottage Garden, gives a clear
description how to raise them: "The house
should have a north aspect, in which case
you may grow mushrooms nearly all the
year round; and the roof of whatever mate-
rial it may be, should be covered with a
sands to keep the temperature more uni-
form. The heating medium should be hot-
water pipes, or a brick flue. The beds, or
shelves, ought to be arranged as conveniently
as possible; I prefer them of wood, one
foot deep and three feet wide. I usually
commence forcing about the first week in
September. Horse droppings are collected
every morning from the stables and placed
under cover, and when I have enough for
a bed I make it up at once, mixing
with the droppings one barrowful of
loam to six droppings. The bed should be
made quite firm. As soon as the heat begins
to rise I make holes with a dibber eight
inches apart over the whole bed. In three
or four days the heat will begin to decline;
when it is about 75° the bed is ready to
spawn. It is then covered with one inch of
loam and beaten quite smooth, and a moder-
ate covering of hay placed upon it. In four
or five weeks the greater portion of the hay
may be removed, leaving just sufficient to

cover the surface. I never water the bed,
but if the hay feels dry, a very slight drow-
ing over is given it. In six weeks the mush-
rooms will begin to appear, and will con-
tinually increase for three months. Success-
ful beds should be made up according to the
requirements.

MAKE GOOD BUTTER.—Mr. D. W. Duke,
of Beloit, got very warm in exhortation the
other day, as will be seen below. He had a
right to speak, for he practices as well as
preaches. He said: "I have worked, and
used what little influence I possessed, but
my efforts seem to me to be but partially ef-
fective; and the tendency among many is to
settle down to a lower standard, and travel
in the old ruts rather than put their shoulder
to the wheel to raise it up to that high en-
durance which it is possible. You farmers
look to this and help us to organize into
granges? No; but three, four, eight, a doz-
en, as many as can work handily together,
fix up a milk room and churning depot, take
your milk there, have it weighed, cream
milk and cream skimmed, churned, then
cleaned, butter weighed and sold; do away
with one hired girl; pay part of what she
would cost for taking charge of the milk
room; have milk enough in the house for
coffee; bring your milk to the depot, and get
from one to five cents more for it. Then you
can make more money, take your sour milk
home, fatten pigs, let the women have a rest,
make better butter, entice buyers from
abroad. Bring markets to your door; do
something to let the world know there's a
west and people in it who know how to
make butter. Applause."

MAPLE SUGAR.—It would be well for
western sugar-makers, who talk about
"tree molasses," to study the plain and full
directions of A. B. Caldwell, a Vermont
sugar-maker. The lesson below contains
the whole subject in a nut-shell. At the
commencement of the season, in the fall,
side of the roof of the sugar-house, together
with the rafters and beams, should be
swept, and all dirt and leaves removed. The
reservoirs should be placed on the outside
of the building, or at least in an addition
built for their accommodation. In warm
weather, if the reservoirs are in the main
building, near the fire and steam, the sap
will be more or less affected, and sour sap
is fatal to the production of the best sugar.
In this vicinity a tub is used to gather the sap,
in place of the hoghead formerly in vogue.
The tub is made for the purpose, is about
three feet in height, and diameter, and has
a cover at the bottom, so that it may rest
firmly on the sled. The top of the tub is
sunk a little and has an opening a foot
square, with hinged cover, in the middle,
and a paifull of sap can be turned in in-
stantly without spilling. The tub is in the
main building, and the sap is carried to it
by a faucet for a trough or hose connecting
with the reservoir, and the load of sap dis-
charges itself into the vats. The sirup is
taken to the house, strained through felt or
flannel, and poured into a high, conical tub,
largest at the top, to settle, and next day is
drawn off and poured into the main building.
This is a square, heavy sheet-iron
pan, made to order, and is just the size of
the top of the cooking-stove. No eggs, no
milk or other foelery is put into the sirup,
for it is a certainty that the scum, with a
slow fire, will rise just as rapidly and thor-
oughly without as with "yeast." The
should be removed from the fire and strained
through flannel, to take out the limous
sediment, which can be most readily ex-
tracted before the sirup reaches the consistency
of molasses. This point can be determined
by the scales, a gallon of sirup at the right
point for molasses weighing 10½ or 11
pounds. If the sirup is boiled longer than
this, it will "grain" when cold. For caking
the sugar should be done to a point indi-
cated by "hairs" following a dipper when
lifted from the boiling mass, or when a
piece of lard in a saucer can be rubbed dry
in a moment. To make the nicest, whitest
cakes, take two or three pounds in a pan,
and stir briskly until the mass is as cool as
it can be worked, then dip rapidly into this
which has been dipped into cold water. Do
not oil or butter the cakes, as this gives a
flavor which is not wanted, and, moreover,
effectually prevents the very white, feathery
appearance of that part of the cakes which
comes in contact with the tin, and which is
so noticeable where water alone is used.

A. B. CALDWELL.

RUTLAND, Vt., Feb. 23.

The St. Louis Democrat says mourn-
fully: It has never in the memory of our
oldest merchants, been as dull in financial
and commercial circles as it is just now at
this time of the year. All classes of busi-
ness are almost perfectly flat, and one of the
most discouraging features in the matter is
that there is no prospect of a change for the
better as far as can be discovered at this
time. Congress has delayed the settlement
of the financial question so long that it is
now in a perfect muddle, and is the worst
solution than it was when the matter
was first brought forward.

The following terse summary of the pro-
gressive modifications which have taken
place in the instruments with which civil-
ized man affects his exchanges under the bene-
dict system of division of labor, from
"Problems of Life and Mind," by George
Henry Lewes, the great English thinker:
"Men begin by exchanging things. They
pass to the exchange of values. First money,
then notes or bills, is the symbol of value.
Finally, men simply desire credit each
other, and thus immense transactions are ef-
fected by means of this equation of equa-
tions. The results of the complete process
of sowing, reaping, collecting, shipping
and delivering a quantity of wheat are con-
densed into the entry of a few words and fig-
ures in a ledger."

The New Orleans city railroad the other day
sunk in the river a bag containing forty-
seven thousand counterfeit coins of tin, the
returns of one year's business. The said
coins make an average of counterfeit money
paid to the company of six dollars per day—
enough to feed twenty mules; one hundred
thousand dollars per day for the company to
travel on this road without pay. And this
is only one of some eight or ten railroad
companies in full operation in that city.
The railroad companies have offered a re-
ward of one thousand dollars for information
which will lead to the discovery and punish-
ment of the counterfeiters.

MONEY IN RICE.

Habersham & Co., of Baltimore, say in
their circular: More than 1,000,000 persons
are already facing starvation in Bengal. Ben-
gal, as is well known, is one of the most
thickly populated countries in the world. Its
capital, Calcutta, is one of the largest
cities in the world, and the population of the
country is about 100,000,000. The great har-
vest of the country, and the present famine
is owing to the failure of the 1873 crop. The
same absence of rain which produced this
failure is said to have interfered with the
growth of the crops for 1874; and when we
are told that from ten to twelve million of
people must be fed by the government in
consequence of the 1873 failure, who shall
limit the number to be fed with the 1874
crops added? To us the rice future seems
obvious. Moreover, last year Rangoon and
Patna came here in large quantities to com-
pete with Carolina. This year it is being
bought up largely for re-export again.
The Louisiana crop, which at least one in-
terested dealer has held up as enormous,
has all melted away with the exception of
about 25,000 bales, while the Carolina crop
is all that remain of the Carolina crop—
say the bulk of 35,000 bales domestic rice to
supply the demand of the next seven
months. We really cannot see what is to

prevent good sound Carolina rice advancing
steadily to ten cents before the next crop
shall be available in October. We con-
sidered the rice of the government 750,000
of the dirty redish, or dirty watery styles
of rice—the same being known to remain
free from weevil longer than the white and
softer grain. We would add that the south-
ern markets having advanced lately, rice
can to-day be bought here about as cheap as
there, thus saving about the commission for
buying there. Price, 8½ to 8¾, according to
quality; stock and assortment both good.

GRAIN DISTILLED.

The Courier-Journal says that some
thoughtless apostles of teetotalism are pro-
claiming that a larger quantity of grain is
consumed in the manufacture of intoxicating
liquors than for food purposes. According to
the official returns 68,000,000 gallons of whis-
ky and 3,000,000 barrels of malt liquors were
the product of the grain distillation and
brewage last year. About twenty million
bushels of grain were consumed in making
this quantity of whisky, and about 40,000,000
bushels in the manufacture of ale, beer, &c.
Here is a total of 60,000,000 bushels of grain of
all kinds, and, of course, a fair average
crop of cereals in the United States aggre-
gates at least 1,500,000,000 bushels, of which
the crop of corn alone should contribute up-
wards of 1,000,000,000. Less than 125,000,000
bushels of grain of all kinds are exported,
so that the supply left for home consumption
amounts to 1,375,000,000 bushels; and of
this quantity, as we have seen, 60,000,000
bushels are consumed in the manufacture of
intoxicating beverages. It might also be
noticed that two of these cereals, rye and
barley, have scarcely any recognition among
the wants of the people for other purposes
than distillation and brewing.

INCREASE OF SUGAR.

The American Grocer gives these facts,
showing the increase in sugar production
and consumption:
The total production of sugar throughout
the world in 1853, was 1,476,714 tons; in 1863
it had reached 1,938,322 tons, and in 1872 it
amounted to 2,532,722 tons. But though the
production had thus doubled within twenty
years, the consumption has kept steady pace
with it. The increased production is, how-
ever, very largely from the sugar beet, and
not from the cane. The supply of cane sug-
ar from 1853 to 1872 only increased from
1,076,714 tons to 1,811,229 tons, while that
from the beet grew from 1863 to 1872, from
452,120 tons to 1,442,996 tons. The only coun-
tries that show any increase of cane sugar
productions are Java, Cuba, Manila, the French West Indies
and Egypt. A late number of the Louisiana
agriculturalist says that the cane crop in
that state: "For many years past the pros-
pects for a large sugar crop have not
been so good at this season of the year. The
unusual mildness of the winter has left the
stubbles perfectly sound, and this one fact,
after so many failures of the cane, is a
great encouragement to planters. Now, we be-
lieve the acreage in cane in Louisiana will,
this season, be the largest for twelve years,
and gives promise of a large crop of sugar,
after a series of years of short crops."

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

THE HON. AMASA WALKER ON THE STAND
—HE MAKES INVOCIOUS COMPARISONS.

The Hon. W. C. Flagg, of Missouri, ad-
dressed some interrogatories to Mr. Amasa
Walker about financial philosophy. As
may be supposed, he received a prompt re-
ply which appears in the last number of the
Prairie Farmer. Mr. Walker was asked to
furnish some proofs of a statement in the
Dacatur letter "that farm products are not
advanced in price at this time as much
as commodities in general." Mr. Walker
calls attention to the relation of the farmer to the currency
from two points of view. "First, as it affects
the price of what he has to sell; second, as it
affects the price of what he has to buy, and
the expenditures he has to meet." As to
the first, the following comparative table is
given, which is a lesson for careful study.
It shows that the gold prices of beef, pork,
flour and corn for four periods of five years
each, from which any one can see the price
of each article each year and the average
price for any five years; and also during the
entire period; and thus be able to compare
each period with every other:

Years	Beef	Pork	Flour	Corn	Ag- gre- gate.
1855	\$15.25	\$18.75	\$9.50	95	
1856	14.26	18.75	9.50	95	
1857	15.25	20.50	7.75	78	
1858	14.50	15.00	7.50	75	
1859	11.25	19.00	4.02	85	
Avg	\$14.10	\$17.97	\$7.32	80	\$80.25
1860	\$10.75	\$10.25	\$5.25	53	
1861	9.00	10.25	5.50	50	
1862	12.00	12.25	5.47	72	
1863	12.50	14.00	5.57	80	
1864	12.25	13.75	5.30	73	
Avg	\$11.50	\$11.71	\$5.67	69	\$63.82
1865	\$9.00	30.75	8.00	105	
1866	13.50	20.50	9.42	118	
1867	15.00	21.25	8.75	140	
1868	14.00	27.50	5.70	100	
1869	14.00	27.50	5.70	100	
Avg	\$14.00	\$28.01	\$8.14	112	\$132.83
1870	\$14.00	\$29.75	\$4.92	108	
1871	14.00	30.00	5.00	110	
1872	16.09	14.00	6.00	81	
1873	11.00	13.12	5.95	66	
1874	30.37	18.50	8.35	85	
Avg	\$11.57	\$18.85	\$5.66	85	\$86.98

Mr. Walker's comments on the above
figures are as follows: From the aggregate
column it may be seen what the average rise
and fall of these staples has been in the dif-
ferent periods, as compared with each other.
These periods may be designated very prop-
erly as the ante-war period, the war-period,
the high-inflation period, and the present
period. Each has its characteristics. By a
comparison of these it appears that the ag-
gregate price of the products in question
from 1855 to 1859 was \$40.35; from 1870 to
1874, \$36.42—a reduction of 8½ per cent, as
compared with the ante-war period. This
shows the farmer precisely where he stands
as regards the price of his products under
the present expansion; and he can deter-
mine for himself whether a paper circulation
of 725 millions, as at present, is better for
him than one of 187 millions, which was the
average circulation from 1855 to 1859. He
can calculate the effect of the large expansion
has raised the price of his products. It may
also be observed that prices were lower from
1860 to 1864 than before or since. This was
owing to the great disturbances occasioned
by the war, which caused a general depre-
ciation and stagnation of trade for the greater
part of this period, during which the aggre-
gate prices were \$35.82 against \$40.35 for the
previous five years, or a decline of 15 per
cent. From 1865 to 1870, prices ranged
very high. It was a period of im-
mense inflation. The treasury had in-
creased already some 350 millions of
greenbacks. The old state banks had a
considerable amount in circulation, while
the new national banks were crowding out
their notes as fast as possible. Again, the
gold premium during this period averaged
about forty per cent. This alone would ac-
count for the greater part of the higher range
of prices; for as the premium on gold declined,
so the prices of all exportable products were
reduced, and the farmer was made to suffer

from every decline in the gold premium,
whether that decline was occasioned by the
operation of the laws of trade or by the sales
of gold by the secretary of the treasury. In
addition to all this the government 750,000
bushels of rice—the same being known to remain
free from weevil longer than the white and
softer grain. We would add that the south-
ern markets having advanced lately, rice
can to-day be bought here about as cheap as
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